

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 11 APRIL 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

Reception reports on the 10,130 MHz experimental relay will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and on packet bulletin boards.

In the news today:

NEW SARL COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIOS

SARL HAMNET CONTEST TODAY

DRAFT DOCUMENT ON ZS LICENSE ASSESSMENTS

ZS4SRK ON THE AIR FROM OUTDOORS SHOW

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

NEW SARL COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIOS

After conclusion of the AGM of the SARL which was held Saturday 3rd April in the NARC in Johannesburg, the newly elected Council constituted and held its first meeting.

It is with regret that Council has to announce that Bill Norval, ZS5KD, is no longer available to serve on the SARL Council. Council would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his long years of service, hard work and dedication to the league, his expertise will be missed. We also wish him everything of the best for the future.

Chris Gryffenberg, ZS6COG, was co-opted as councillor in the vacancy thus created. Congratulations Chris and many thanks that you are prepared to serve on Council.

Council portfolios were allocated as follows: Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH - President, Hamnet; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT - Vice President, Club Liaison; Henry Chamberlain, ZS1AAZ - Secretary; Andrew Roos, ZS1AN - Education, RAE; Barry Murrell, ZR2DX - Digital Matters; Derek Gravett, ZS5Y - VHF Activities; Chris Gryffenberg, ZS6COG - Youth and PDC Development, Promotion, Recruitment; Dave Perry, ZS1SG - VHF/UHF Bandplanning and Repeaters; Dennis Green, ZS4BS - HF Manager, Bulletins, Radio ZS; Derek Gravett, ZS5Y - VHF/UHF Activities; John Fielding, ZS5JF - IARU liaison; John Watson, ZS6ABJ - Office Manager; Kobus Conradie, ZR6D - New Technology, Technical Standards, Interference; Matt Greyvenstein, ZS1MJJ - SARL membership; Olivier van Staden, ZS1OLI - Buildings, Zoning and Environmental; Richard Seddon, ZS2CLI - Web Site. The Treasurer's portfolio has at this stage not been filled.

The Council also appointed the following SARL members for specific duties: Hans Potgieter, ZS6ALJ - Technical Standards, Interference; Tjerk Lammers, ZS6P - Awards; Francois Botha, ZS6BUU - Hamnet; George Honiball, ZS6NE - Bulletins.

Many thanks to these people who are prepared to render these services entrusted to them in the service of amateur radio. Sarlnews wishes strength to all the office bearers for their specific tasks and Sarlnews shall be only too pleased to render publicity to all that is achieved successfully.

#### SARL HAMNET CONTEST TODAY

The annual SARL HAMNET 40-metre Simulated Emergency Contest will be run this afternoon starting at 14:00 and ending at 16:00 CAT. Participants can enter one of four categories, single operator stationary mobile, single operator portable, multi-operator portable or Single operator base station. The rules for this contest are available on the SARL website at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za) and have also been sent out with the HF Happenings newsletter no 91. Participants are requested to keep activity between 7,045 and 7,085 MHz.

#### RODRIGUES ISLAND IOTA: AF-017 OPERATIONAL ON FIJI OSCAR 29 LEO SATELLITE

3B9C Rodrigues Island AF-017 - Operator David G0MRF QRV on FIJI OSCAR 29 Satellite till Sunday 11 April 2004.

3B9C Operating Frequency: Downlink on 435,860 MHz USB: Uplink on 145,940 MHz LSB [ tune for Doppler shift ]

Chris, ZR1L, in Cape Town grid JF96hd was heard by 3B9C on Wednesday 7 April on CW, ZR1L's signal report from 3B9C was a 589

On Friday morning 9 April at 08:42 UTC a SSB QSO took place between David, 3B9C, and Chris, ZR1L, signal report given by 3B9C to ZR1L was a 5/7 and 3B9C signal was a 5/6 into Cape Town on the satellite.

It is believed that this was the first satellite contact from the 3B9C DXpedition.

David would like to have some more satellite QSO's to Southern Africa before he leaves the Island and will be on the INDIAN OCEAN passes of satellite Fiji Oscar 29.

See also website : <http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c> for more details on the Dxpediton and <http://www.amsat.org.za> for more details and frequencies for FO-29.

#### DRAFT DOCUMENT ON ZS LICENSE ASSESSMENTS

A draft document on ZS license assessments that is being considered by Council has been published on the SARL website. It is available in PDF format on the ICASA update page.

Although not yet approved by Council, the document is being published now in draft form so that members who are discussing the proposed new Radio Regulations released by ICASA for public comment can get a better idea of what the "assessment" referred to in Chapter 3, B1 (3) might entail.

Once approved by Council the document will be formally published for comment by members.

The document proposes that candidates for the ZS license would be required to complete an assessment in one of the following areas:

- Operating achievement
- Electronics construction
- Software development
- Public service and emergency communications
- Morse code proficiency

Some radio-related professional qualifications would also be recognised.

#### CLOSING DATE FOR RAE ENROLMENT

The closing date for enrolment for the May RAE is Friday 16 April. All candidates must by that date have submitted their completed application forms and have paid the examination fee of R450-00 to the SARL. Enrolment forms are available on the SARL web at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za).

Any clubs wishing to register as examination centres must also do it before 16 April. Please note that NO late registrations can be accepted.

#### ZS4SRK ON THE AIR FROM OUTDOORS SHOW

During the weekend of 28, 29 and 30 April 2004, the Sasolburg Radio Club will be operating an educational radio station at the annual outdoor show of the High School Transvalia in Vanderbijlpark. The club plans to be active on 40 m SSB; 20 m CW and 2 m-simplex and duplex, as well as packet radio. Amateurs are requested make contact with the station in order to give the young people a feeling for the hobby. The station will be on the air from 14:00 to 22:00 daily.

#### PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

It is with pleasure that Sarlnews announces that Kobus Botha, ZS6KOB, has kindly agreed to furnish us weekly with a short item on propagation conditions. Kobus is an ardent DXer and he knows where to find information on which to base his predictions. Kobus also transmits weather pictures on behalf of ZS6MRK daily from his QTH in Pretoria on 144,700 MHz. He is in the process of upgrading his station for receiving weather pictures from a new weather satellite and within the near future it will be possible to receive in time, high quality weather pictures from his station.

Here follows his first contribution: Conditions were weak during the past week as a result of low sunspot numbers. The sunspot number on Friday was only 40,1 as against 62,8 for the previous week. There were however good openings, especially to the East and even a few on the long path to the USA. The prediction for this week is even worse. A further decrease in the sunspot number is expected with associated stormy conditions on 10 and 11 April - mainly due to an expected coronal mass inflow towards the earth. Bands already close around 18:00 - typical winter conditions. Try the 20 m band around 17:00, especially towards the East.

#### ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

Sunday 11th April, that is today, the SARL HAMNET 40-Metre Simulated Emergency Contest from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT. 16th April closing date for the May RAE. 28 to 30 April special station ZS4SRK on the air.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS. Unfortunately Dennis suffered lightning damage and I quote his message: " George, I send the bulletin from my wife's work. Yesterday just after 4 my computer, printer, scanner, 2 m set and 2 m antenna was taken out by lightning. Both neighbours also suffered damage.

Fortunately I had already printed the English bulletin for translation and I re-typed everything on one of the children's computer (no internet access).

I hope to be back on the air during the week. Regards from a sad amateur.

Dennis we are very sorry to hear about this loss but it is also good to learn that it did not get you down. Thank you very much for all the additional effort.

This bulletin was read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also

many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX